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LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter and two enclosures, dated 16 August 1992 from my Prime Minister, Mr. Jure Pelivan.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 16 August 1992 from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the Secretary-General

In view of the still continuing aggression and terrorism against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we request you to urge the Security Council to station United Nations observers along the borders of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the neighbouring States of Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia. These observers would be joined by representatives of the legal Government with a view to performing those functions proper to border crossings between States.

Military equipment and new reinforcements are continually arriving on our territory from Serbia and Montenegro, the States responsible for the aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina. This can be seen from the enclosed information (enclosure I). Also, from the Republic of Croatia units of the former Yugoslav Army and paramilitary formations are constantly arriving to whom the former Yugoslav Army has given arms and which are now withdrawing from those parts of Croatia where United Nations control has been established.

Furthermore, the aggressors are looting and removing to Serbia and Montenegro natural resources, industrial equipment and finished products from Bosnia and Herzegovina. This form of theft is extremely widespread, and we are unable to prevent it without international help. Information concerning this is enclosed (enclosure II).

In view of the above, we are convinced that proper protection of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the implementation of the Security Council resolutions and the demands of the international community, are not possible without supervision of our frontiers, along with other measures.

We trust that this request will be met with your understanding and support.

(Signed) Jure PELIVAN
Prime Minister

Enclosure I

Information on continuing support in manpower and equipment arriving from Serbia and Montenegro to the aggressors' units on the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Relying upon the arms potentials of the ex-Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) leadership first armed a narrow circle of its members and continued by arming entire communities, villages and parts of towns with mixed population. Most of the arms, ammunition and military equipment is derived from Army arsenals, while the training of armed civilians was held on Army premises, with ex-JNA officers as instructors. A part of the formations, armed and trained in this manner, took part in the war operations in the Republic of Croatia. While withdrawing from Croatia, the Yugo-Army stationed complete combat units on the territory of our Republic. Thus the tank unit from Jasterbarsko was relocated to Dubrave, near Tuzla, a smaller part being stationed in the region of Prijedor, while the Knin Corps units were sent to the localities of Bosanski Petrovac, Drvar, Bosansko Grahovo and Kupres. The unit from "Zeljave" airport, near Bihać, with about 50 combat planes, was relocated to Mahovljani near Banja Luka.

After the establishment of "pink zones" in the Republic of Croatia, which are supposed to be under United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) control, a new massive regrouping of the ex-JNA forces from the territory of Croatia to that of Bosnia and Herzegovina was carried out, from the so-called SAO Kraina and Slavonia in particular. Fifty-six tanks have been relocated from Lička Ploča to "Zeljave" airport, while the imagined border line between Croatia and "the Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina" has been reinforced by the units that have crossed the border region at Petrinja, Dvorna Uni and Glina. The effect of the Knin and Karlovac Corps activities can be seen all over "the autonomous Banja Luka region", while in the region of Podrinje and Herzegovina, the Valjevo, Užice and Titograd Corps units are operating.

At the beginning of June 1992 Radovan Karadžić and General Ratko Mladić sent a group of Chetnik commanders, among them Božo Vučurević, Duško Kornjača, Ratko Adžić and Radomir Nešković, to Mirko Jović, Vojislav Šešelj and Captain Dragan's headquarters to provide for an urgent supply of "fresh forces". The task of Karadžić's voivodas was to speed up the dispatch of manpower and equipment to reinforce the units preparing for the general attack to be launched at Goražde. One part of the enemies' forces has arrived to the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, while a convoy of 60 tanks was ready for Goražde via Čajniče. Karadžić promised his commanders that he would block out the United Nations and UNPROFOR observers, i.e. engage them with the problems in the Sarajevo area, during the offensive operations in Goražde and in the direction of the Neretva, in other words, keep them busy with Sarajevo until Goražde had been wiped out, and the business in Herzegovina completed.

At the beginning of July the Chetniks transferred from Butmir airport to Lukavica 27 trucks of goods of all kinds, mainly spare parts for airport installations, previously brought from "Pleso" airport, Zagreb, and Zemunik, near Zadar. Along with other equipment, seven tanks, six armoured transporters and four anti-aircraft machine-guns were dislocated whereas the armoured vehicles were relocated from the airport premises to Lukavica barracks. According to the agreement reached with the Jugo-Army from Serbia, the SDS extremists posted around Sarajevo expected a new shipment of ammunition by the beginning of July (one shipment containing about 1,500 12-millimetre bullets and 1,000 12.5-millimetre bullets).

However, ever new troops of "volunteers" have been arriving at Pale from Belgrade, Valjevo and Čačak. At the same time new shipments of ammunition are arriving from Serbia, whereas goods or all sorts of equipment are being taken out of the Republic.

The bridges at Ilidža are controlled by irregulars from Valjevo, Aleksandrovac and Aleksinac.

A larger convoy with arms has been stationed in Rogatica, while numerous army vehicles and buses with irregulars from Serbia have been reported in the region of Foča. Besides the new troops of "Šešelj's men" and "Arkan's Gang" have arrived from Serbia in the region of Mostar and Neum, disguised in civilian clothes and with forged identification papers.

During the preparations for the offensive against Goražde, large groups of "volunteers" from Serbia and Montenegro have concentrated in the surrounding of Priboj so that now there are several thousand men along with heavy artillery and infantry armament. The units are to be committed on the fronts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with Captain Dragan in charge of the operation. The main centres for distribution of manpower and equipment from Serbia and Montenegro are in Priboj (Serbia), Nikšić and Pljevlje (Montenegro). The "volunteers" are behaving very violently towards the Muslim population in Priboj and its surroundings, with numerous cases of rape and mining of Muslim property, which has led to a massive evacuation of the Muslim population which has been forced to find refuge in West European countries.

After completing their military training in Bijeljina barracks, the irregulars were committed to the front lines in Brčko, and in the direction of Tuzla and Majevica region. The ex-JNA still continues providing reinforcements for the aggressors' forces on the Brčko battlefield. On 18 June Lieutenant-Colonel Stevan Nikolić, known as "Kriger", informed Srećko Radovanović, a Res. Maj., that General Delic from Belgrade, confirmed upon General Mladic's approval the reinforcement in 10 R-84 tanks and 10 armoured vehicles for the units stationed in Pelagićevo. Lieutenant-Colonel Predrag Manojlović, the Brčko barracks commander, ordered from Belgrade ammunition (calibres 30 and 29 millimetres) along with bazookas and hand grenades for the needs of garrisons stationed in Brčko and Bosanski Šamac. Upon the Belgrade Army District order, Lieutenant-Colonel Manojlović took out of VP 5055-19 Belgrade-Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia 741,000

bullets, calibre 7.62 millimetres, mines, 740 pieces; 5,500 bullets, calibre 30 and 20 millimetres; and 120 hand grenades. The receipts for the ammunition were signed by the ex-JNA officers from Belgrade, Miroslav Janičić, M. Radojević and B. Stanišić.

A heavy truck loaded with artillery and infantry ammunition arrived at Pelagićevo from Belgrade in mid-June. According to some reports on the combat readiness of Yugo-Army units, even up to 450 tons of ammunition were destined to a front. Besides support in armament, the ex-JNA assisted the aggressors' forces on Brčko front in personnel too. Twenty officers from Serbia came to be engaged there. In Brčko, the so-called War Presidency of "the Serbian municipality of Brčko" has recently made a decision to citizenship papers of "the Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina" also to all the irregulars from Serbia and Montenegro, which would give them equal rights and obligations with other citizens of this so-called republic.

The data given in this enclosure is intended only to illustrate the continuing reinforcement of the aggressors' units on the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in both manpower and equipment coming from Serbia and Montenegro. The Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina has at its disposition a substantially larger list of similar cases and all the relevant documentation.

Enclosure II

Information on the theft and removal of natural resources, industrial equipment and finished products from the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Serbia and Montenegro, the aggressors against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with the ex-JNA and federal institutions of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in cooperation with extremist and paramilitary forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, prepared a plan of aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. A part of the plan was the destruction and theft of natural resources, industrial equipment and finished products. The realization of the plan started long before the armed aggression. Although we do not have complete information on the scale of the theft and removal of the natural resources, industrial equipment and finished products to Serbia and Montenegro, it can be said without hesitation that a large part of the entire property of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been taken to Serbia and Montenegro.

Since Serbia and Montenegro have been defined as aggressors against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina by United Nations resolutions, it is our intention to present by this information only a part of the theft and removal of the natural resources, industrial equipment and finished products.

In those regions of the Republic, where the human and international rights have been violated, the aggressor is also looting both State and individual property in order to take the looted goods to Serbia and Montenegro. The illegal felling of forests, the theft of livestock and property to be illegally transported and sold at markets in Serbia and Montenegro has caused great material damage to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The banks and other financial institutions have been robbed by Serbian and Montenegrin financial institutions and companies.

This information is aimed, with the purpose of partial documenting of the above-mentioned claims, to point to some of the major cases of theft and removal of natural resources, industrial equipment and finished products to Serbia and Montenegro. The full list with similar cases is much more extensive, but unfortunately it cannot be completed because of the war. The relevant institutions are still collecting the required documentation and information in order to provide a full picture of the situation.

- Industrial equipment of priceless value has been looted from several premises of the United Nations Information Service at Sarajevo and taken to Serbia;

- In June 1992, 27 heavy trucks loaded with finished and semi-finished products for military purposes were taken out of the Pretis enterprise at Vogošća near Sarajevo and taken to Belgrade;

- In the beginning of May 1992, several trucks loaded with spare parts for army transporters and tanks were taken from the Famos Enterprise at Hrasnica, near Sarajevo, and taken to the barracks at Pančevo, Serbia.

- Sixty engines and 50 gear boxes with accessories were also taken from Famos to Serbia, exchanged for raw material (steel and iron) via Macedonia, to be returned to Serbia and illegally confiscated;

- The Energoinvest Compressor Factory "Trudbenik" was also looted and its equipment taken to Serbia. The theft took place in May and June 1992;

- The equipment from the Furniture Factory "Varda", Višegrade was taken to Serbia in May 1992;

- Brčko Oil Factory equipment was taken to Serbia in June 1992;

- A substantial part of the aircraft factory "Soko", Mostar, was also taken to Serbia and Montenegro;

- A plan for the relocation of a major part of the production units of "Orao" Industries at Rajlovac, near Sarajevo, has been made, according to which the equipment was to be transported to Trsteno in Serbia;

- Several aircraft and helicopters, the property of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina were taken from Sarajevo Airport during May 1992;

- In May 1992, the aggressor looted and took to Serbia the major part of the Interplet factory at Koraj, Tuzla;

- The equipment of the Plum Drying Factory at Koraj, Tuzla, was also looted in May 1992;

- The aggressor is looting power directing it from the thermo power plants at Gacko and Ugljevik and the water power plants on the Drina and the Trebišnjica to Serbia and Montenegro;

- Trucks, buses, trains and locomotives were illegally taken from a score of transport organizations in the Republic ("Centrotrans" and "ZTP", The City Transport Organization of Sarajevo, etc.);

- Ore, semi-finished products and mining equipment were taken from a dozen mines in Eastern Bosnia to Serbia in May and June 1992;

- Numerous enterprises, institutions and organizations have also been looted, their equipment, along with investments and technical documentation, were taken to Serbia (processing factory at Sarajevo, Water Economy of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Famos factory, etc.);

- A great number of medical institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been robbed of medical equipment, medicines and medical material which have been taken to Serbia and Montenegro.